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BOOK REVIEWS

EARLY AMERICAN CRAFTSMEN. BY WALTER A. DYER. The Century Company, New York, Publishers. Price \$2.40 net.

This is a delightful book, a series of sketches of the lives of the most important personalities in the early development of the industrial arts in America, written by one who knows his subject well. Mr. Dyer realizes, however, that our "interest in men," as he puts it, "is more than in metals" and he approaches the subject of the crafts through the personality of the craftsmen.

It will be a surprise to many to learn what distinguished artists we have had in this branch of the modest arts. Duncan Phyfe, for example, maker of exquisite furniture, who adapted and improved the Sheraton style; Samuel McIntire, master carpenter, who learned architecture out of books and built in Salem so many delightfully proportioned houses with interiors beautiful in detail; the romantic Baron Stiegel, inventor of stoves, iron-master, and creator of beautiful glassware, who lived like a feudal lord in Pennsylvania, fell into a debtor's prison, and ended his life as a bookkeeper.

These—with Paul Revere, silversmith, engraver, and bell-founder—are a few of the personalities of whom Mr. Dyer tells. Among the subjects discussed are the Windsor chair, a distinctly American product, clocks made in Connecticut and Massachusetts, and early American work in pewter, copper, brass, cabinet-making, carving and pottery, particular attention as regards the last being given to Bennington and Rockingham wares.

The vogue for Americana is increasing, art museums as well as private individuals are collecting examples of the works of our foremost early craftsmen. This book will be of special interest to those who are making collections, but it will be found to be good reading by all who care for art and take pride in its development in our country.

Mr. Dyer who has won distinction as an author, apple-grower, and authority on Colonial antiques and dogs, ventures the opinion that patriotism, when it leads to war ceases to be a virtue; but when it leads

men and women to the revival and preservation of worthy traditions, and to the study of history, of folk literature and music and the industrial arts, becomes a positive, constructive force for good in the onward march of civilization.

At this time the interest in the development of the industrial arts in America is unusually keen and such a book as this must be welcomed as peculiarly timely.

PROJECTIVE ORNAMENT. BY BRAGDON. The Mansa Press, Rochester, N. Y., Publishers. Price \$1.50.

Mr. Bragdon, an architect of considerable experience and distinction, realizing "the esthetic poverty into which the modern world seems to have fallen," looked about for "some source, some secret spring of fresh beauty undiscovered, to satisfy our thirsty souls." Such results as have up to the present rewarded his search are set forth in this little volume.

Mr. Bragdon claims that we have no language today such as had those of the ages past by which we can find expression in space through architectural forms and ornament. A chief source of inspiration in the past was nature, but from nature he declares we have become so widely separated today that as such a source it is practically closed. The source to which he would have us turn is geometry, which he claims to be "an inexhaustive well of formal beauty from which to fill our bucket." How this may be done he demonstrates both through text and illustration in this little volume. With what success, other open-minded explorers in this same engaging field may judge for themselves.

JOSEPH PENNELL'S PICTURES IN THE LAND OF TEMPLES. J. B. Lippincott, Philadelphia, Publishers. Price \$1.25 net.

This book, which is similar in style and appearance to the volume issued more than a year ago giving pictures of the Panama Canal by the same distinguished artist, is a souvenir of Mr. Pennell's recent sojourn in Greece. It contains forty reproductions of lithographs made in the land of temples, each one of which is accompanied by brief descriptive text. Besides which there is an interestingly written introduction, giving impressions by the artist.